

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 19 | Humidity 63%

Partly Cloudy

Sensex 69,825 | Nifty 20,969 | Gold 61,770 | Silver 72,539 | Dollar 83.43 | Euro 89.88 | GBP 104.69

CRASH QUOTIENT

City comes 2nd in fatal accidents

PAGE 5



MIND MADE UP

Biases that impact decision making

PAGE 9



Is infrastructure development going ahead without feasibility studies, alternative analyses guided by science, experts ask

INFRA IN RED

‘Sustainable planning, mobility, environmental impact ignored’

Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Some infrastructure development activities in Bengaluru in the recent past have been myopic, city-based mobility experts and ecologists have pointed out.

They said knee-jerk reactions to traffic congestion in the city involving flyover constructions and proposals such as building a 195-km tunnel road will prove disastrous.

They are of the view that development projects are being taken up without conducting feasibility studies or alternative analyses guided by science — such haphazard expansion of the city while ignoring the essentials of sustainable planning, mobility, and environmental impact will further add to the chaos.

The latest example is that of the Ejipura flyover.

“Based on drawings and alignments, this project is fundamentally flawed. Infrastructure projects such as flyovers not only encourage people to use private modes of transport but also allow vehicles to move at a faster rate leading to a higher flow rate. However, as soon as the vehi-



“A proposed flyover might sound rosy, but it is highly likely residents will face a new set of problems post-completion

— Professor Ashish Verma, IISc

cles get halted at the next junction or reach a bottleneck, the spillover effect makes such projects obsolete. Even in the case of Ejipura flyover, there is a

T-junction just ahead, and in no time traffic will start piling up. It will also eat up pedestrian way, negatively impacting the quality of life. This is the same story as

that of Shivananda Circle flyover or several other flyovers constructed in the city,” said professor Ashish Verma, convenor,
CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

Worst case scenario

BBMP's decision to engage detective & security services agency to recruit teachers draws criticism



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The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) authorities have decided to engage the services of a detective and security agency to recruit teachers for its schools and colleges. Security agencies are known for supplying manpower (security guards and housekeepers) for private as well as government offices. The contract for supplying teachers is worth Rs 3,40,48,611.

The BBMP executive engineer (projects - south) issued a letter dated November 6 to Appu Detective and Security Services to supply teachers to BBMP schools and colleges in BBMP south zone and RR Nagar zone.

The letter stated that the contractor (Appu Detective and Security Services) is qualified to outsource teachers for the schools and colleges maintained by the BBMP. The BBMP administrator has approved the proposal to supply teachers for schools and colleges.

The executive engineer has directed the Appu Detective and Security Services to enter into an agreement with the BBMP to outsource teachers for schools and colleges within three days of receiving the letter.

However, the BBMP's decision to engage a detective and security services agency
CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

3 THINGS TO DO



01 Musical evening

Ready to enjoy the vibrant beats and melodies of Chemmeen Band and Seniorz Melam? This musical extravaganza promises a fusion of contemporary sounds and traditional rhythms, creating a one-of-a-kind live experience for audiences of all ages. Chemmeen, renowned for their soul-stirring compositions, will enchant the crowd with their electric blend of musical genres. Joining the stage is Seniorz Melam, a group that brings the rich heritage of traditional melodies to life with a contemporary twist.

When: December 16, 7 pm onwards; **Where:** Nexus Koramangala Mall

02 Rock on



Bandland brings a stellar lineup of 12 International and Homegrown Indie-Rock Icons, all set to make you groove. Legendary British rock band Deep Purple and American rock icons Goo Goo Dolls are set to headline the event. Sharing the stage are

American indie rockers The War on Drugs, a perfect blend for fans of Bruce Springsteen and Pink Floyd. Adding to the eclectic mix are Australian punks Amyl and The Sniffers, making their thrilling debut in India. **When:** December 16 & 17; **Where:** Embassy International Riding School Ground, Bengaluru

03 Kick-off

Get ready for an exhilarating live, unscripted conversation with football icon Ole Gunnar Solskjaer as he embarks on his inaugural journey



to India, making a special stop in the city. Prepare to be enthralled as Ole Gunnar Solskjaer unveils exclusive insights, untold stories, and anecdotes with Manchester United fans in India, offering a glimpse into the defining moments that shaped his extraordinary journey.

When: December 15, 5-10 pm;
Where: VENUE: ITC Gardenia, Ashok Nagar

Lake comes alive with 1,000 lamps and more

Benniganahalli Lake has been revived; citizens express their joy and celebrate by lighting the place up

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Around 200 people gathered at Benniganahalli Lake on Saturday evening to celebrate the rejuvenation of the water body by lighting oil lamps. The residents considered it an eco-friendly Diwali and a tribute to those who worked hard for the rejuvenation of the lake. Benniganahalli Kere Community Development Trust organised the event in which there were several cultural activities and rangoli competitions.

The residents of Pai Layout and surrounding areas expressed joy about the rejuvenation of the lake and basic amenities available for children and senior citizens. They said the lake was in a bad condition a few years ago.

"I also participated in cleaning drives held at the lake. Residents and lake volunteers worked hard to remove weeds. I am so happy to see the lake restored. Many people are now visiting for a walk in the morning and evening. Benniganahalli is very important for Pai Layout as it will help increase the ground water table thus helping those who depend on borewells for water," said Manoj Mathew, a resident.

Bangalore Mirror has before published many stories on the condition of the lake highlighting the need to preserve it and take measures to prevent people dumping idols and animal waste into the lake. BM also published a story - Weeds to water sports - on March 27, about how the lake was overgrown by weeds and filled with garbage and sewage until a few years ago, but had been revived over the last two years and how it has become a potential destination for organising water sports.

Some of the residents are of the opinion that the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited

Residents and lake volunteers worked hard to remove weeds. Many are now visiting for morning and evening walks

- Manoj Mathew, resident of area

(BMRCL) that rejuvenated the lake has to hand over it to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) after completing the remaining developmental works. Describing the event as an excellent programme, Ben-



Around 200 people gathered at Benniganahalli Lake on Saturday evening to celebrate Parisara Deepawali

niganahalli Kere Community Development Trust secretary NH Subramanian said he would like to partner with the BBMP once the BMRCL hands over the lake. "We lit around 1,000 lamps and the programme was well attended by residents of Pai Layout and surrounding areas. A few companies have already evinced interest in maintaining the lake," said Subramanian.

Monica Malini, a resident, said the lake looks beautiful after rejuvenation.

"I am happy with the developmental works, but there is a

lot to do to ensure that the lake remains in a good condition," said Malini. Describing it as the first Parisara Deepawali, treasurer of the trust Anupama VL said that the lamps lit in the entire lake bund area showcased that Deepawali is not about noise and pollution but about spreading cheer and joy through lights. "Young and old participated enthusiastically. The program was conducted to bring awareness about the recent development works completed around the lake. It was majestic and a feast to the eyes," Anupama said.

Well done: Trapped jackal rescued from dry well

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In a unique rescue of a jackal, with efforts, dedication and teamwork, the PFA Wildlife Rescue Centre managed to pull out an Indian jackal trapped 50 feet below the surface in a dry well in Doddaballapura forest. The dramatic rescue unfolded late in the evening on December 8, following a distress call from Doddaballapura forest officials.

Upon receiving the urgent plea, Colonel (Dr) Navaz Shariff, Chief Veterinarian of the PFA Wildlife Rescue Centre, acted swiftly, dispatching the Quick Reaction Rescue Team (QRR) equipped with specialised rescue gear. Despite the 70-kilometre distance from their centre in Kengeri, the team, comprising dedicated individuals such as Rahul, Salman, Ashraf, and Anand GS, reached the location by 10 pm. Under the moonlight, the collaborative efforts between the rescue team and the forest department transformed into a tireless operation. The well was deep and posed a daunting challenge for the rescue, but with



precision and care, the rescue team descended into the well, armed with climbing ropes, harnesses, catching nets, torches, and essential clothing. Navigating the darkness, they inched closer to the trapped Indian jackal, and they captured the jackal with care and without any harm.

Dr Shariff said, "The jackal was trapped in the well for two days and when we got to know about the case we immediately rushed there. When we reached, we saw the jackal

was extremely scared. Even during the rescue, it was scared and was trying to escape and it took some time for us to catch it with the nets. Had we been further delayed, the jackal could have reached the stage of dehydration and could have even died. But with timely rescue, it was saved. After the jackal was caught, we examined it and it was healthy and then we decided to release it in the forest." The rescued Indian jackal was joyfully released back into its natural habitat, marking another triumph for Team PFA. This is so far the 11th rescue of jackals that have all been released successfully without any harm. This rescue is among the 38,000 animals saved by PFA, underscoring the importance of swift action in the critical moments of wildlife distress, showcasing their commitment to preserving and protecting Bengaluru's diverse wildlife.

This rescue highlights the critical importance of swift and coordinated efforts in safeguarding the well-being of wildlife, showcasing the role organizations like PFA play in preserving the delicate balance of ecosystems and ensuring the survival of diverse species.



Repo rate pause: All you need to know about booking FDs

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to keep the repo rate unchanged for the fifth consecutive time, at its bimonthly monetary policy committee meeting held on December 8. The previous repo rate hike happened in February when it was raised from 6.25% to 6.5%.

While banks had raised their fixed deposit (FD) rates, the increases have not been close to the repo rate's 2.5% rise. The RBI had raised its concerns about a short-fall in transmission in the interest rates. Banks have been facing tighter liquidity conditions and higher credit growth, which have also been pushing the rates up in the short term.

The current pause in repo rate means that depositors can enjoy the high interest rate on fixed deposits for some more time. However, will there be a further hike in deposit rates, or is it the last window for depositors to book FDs for a longer tenure? Read on to know more.

Lack of funds with banks may push rates up in the near term

The amount of funds banks need to borrow from the interbank market or from the central bank stood at Rs 1.74 lakh crore (\$20.90 billion) on November



21, according to RBI data. When the short-term borrowing needs of banks are higher, it pushes up the short-term interest rates and banks are compelled to raise their deposit rates as well. In a sign of the liquidity crunch, overnight money market rates have been moving around the RBI's marginal standing facility rate of 6.75%. For instance, on December 4, the weighted average rate for call money stood at 6.75%, while for market repo it

stood at 6.77%.

Banks considered non-callable FDs as a more reliable source of deposits and, hence, offered a higher interest rate on these FDs. The minimum amount to invest in these FDs was Rs 15 lakh. As banks were able to get funds through these deposits, they were not offering a similar high interest rate on their retail FDs. The RBI changed the rule and raised the minimum amount of investment in

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these FDs to Rs 1 crore. This is likely to snatch a big funding source from banks and they may be compelled to raise their retail FD rates as well. This is the reason why banks have been raising interest rates on bulk deposits as well.

FD rates are unlikely to fall in near future due to inflation concerns

Retail inflation remains the primary focus area for the RBI. It was double-digit retail inflation that led to a series of repo rate hikes, which compelled banks to raise FD rates. Of late, there have been signs of infla-

tion cooling down, which have raised the expectation of a repo rate cut in the near future. However, if inflation does not cool down, the possibility of a rate cut may appear distant. "Inflation has again been quite volatile in recent weeks, with perishables (specifically onions and tomatoes), pulses and spices showing quite strong upward momentum. This could push the Q3FY24 CPI inflation average to ~5.6%, in line with the RBI's forecast," says a research report from Emkay Global Financial Services.

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Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

No equipment, now who will extinguish this fire?

After narrow escape from fire, bus passengers point to lack of fire extinguishers, first-aid kits in vehicles

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After a recent accident involving a Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTc) bus, commuters have called on the BMTc to ensure required emergency equipment like first aid kits and fire extinguishers are present in the buses to ensure minimal damage.

On Wednesday, a family of three and several passengers of BMTc had a narrow escape after a car crashed into a bus near Chandra Layout on the western portion of the city. The family of three soon jumped out of their car after it collided with the bus and caught fire around 9 am. However, the car was stuck to the rear end of the bus, destroying the back-row seats.

Bus driver Gourisha said that moments after the bus caught fire, they evacuated passengers on board and steered the bus away so as to detach it from the car. By the time help arrived on spot from Nagarbhavi fire station, the car was burned to rubble and the bus had suffered severe damage.

Section 167 of Karnataka Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989, states that every



A BMTc bus caught fire after a car crashed into it near Chandra Layout on Wednesday. The car that was gutted in the crash was stuck to the rear end of the bus, destroying the back row seats

public service vehicle other than a motor cab should be equipped with one or more fire extinguishers. Along with this, the Karnataka State Transport Authority has said that the fire extinguishers should be maintained and in working condition at all times. According to the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, all vehicles must carry a first-aid kit that contains antiseptic creams, dressings, plasters, and bandages. Commuters have noted that several buses are running without a first-aid kit or fire extinguishers.

Venkatesh, a frequent commuter, said, "The bus crew must also be consistently trained on how to use these equipment in cases of emergency. These sessions must also be conducted for citizens in the institutions they are working in. For students, educational institutions must come forward to take the step. Such necessary life skills will make a difference during cases of emergencies and reduce casualties to a minimum." Another commuter noted

that crew members should also know how to do Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and have Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for health emergencies.

"Bystanders being able to identify such events and provide the basic

“The bus crew must also be trained on how to use these equipment in cases of emergency. These sessions must also be conducted for citizens

— Venkatesh, bus passenger

care and transferring victims to the nearest facility in time helps prevent death and damage to the brain," Dr Pooja S, Consultant Medical intensive care unit (MICU), Fortis Hospital, Bannerghatta Road says.

Shaheen Shasa, a member of the Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike (BBPV), had earlier told BM that

since the metro is a closed system, entry of an emergency response team or taking the patient out of the metro system adds multiple overheads. However, the procedure with BMTc is different. "With BMTc, as it's an open system, it is much easier to respond to an emergency. The bus can be stopped immediately and the person can be taken to the nearest hospital or an ambulance can be called to reach the patient as soon as possible," she had said, adding that buses must be equipped with information available to the public about what to do in case of an emergency, and orientation must be provided to the conductor and driver to make the process smoother. "Bus priority lanes, the way it was conceptualised in 2019, were to allow ambulances to travel on them. If we fast-track the implementation of bus lanes on all high-density corridors and allow ambulances and emergency response vehicles to also use the bus lane, it will improve emergency response on the whole," she said.

For the record, BBMP plans to go digital

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The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) plans to have all its hand-written property registers made available in digital format by March 2024.

The Palike is planning to take 5,100 hand-written registers mainly from the Revenue Department and digitise them. Often hand-written papers are vulnerable to the test of time and sometimes not legible. The new digital version will provide for easier readability and preservation for longer intervals.

BBMP has invited a request for a proposal for the scanning and digitisation of property records in proper-

ty registers. Palike wants to scan and digitise the property registers (both A and B) containing tax records of BBMP within 5,100 hand-written registers. The bidders will have to scan and digitise the documents at

“Exact method for digitising will be decided by the Special Commissioner, Revenue

— BBMP official

6,000 DPI. Palike plans to complete the work by March 2024. An official from the BBMP Revenue Department will verify the accuracy of the work. Further, in the future, if the Palike demands to accumulate or port the data, the service providers will be held responsible for the task.



"We are planning to digitise the registers which will be executed soon. The exact method for scanning and digitising will be decided by the Special Commissioner Revenue," said a BBMP official.

Previously, BBMP was planning to digitise the records using its internal team and now it has decided to outsource the work to a service provider. Under the Nanna Swathu

initiative, BBMP officials also have been visiting door-to-door in an effort to digitise property records. The measure is being executed to verify the property evading BBMP taxes, building violations, etc. In this regard, BBMP officials are asking citizens to hand over property tax receipts and BESCOM bills. The measure is expected to bring more tax revenue for BBMP.

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Crumble tumble

Kithiganur



Adjacent to Garden City College, TC Palya till the Kithiganur Main Road, there has been no development work on the road by any corporator of any party.

Power failure

Budigere



The power transmission pole has been completely rusted for many years in the Budigere Cross bus stop area. No BESCOM employees seem bothered though this creates such a high-risk situation.

Dirty sight

Shanthinagar



Open sewage drains surround the Shanthinagar bus depot, emitting a filthy stench and creating extremely unhygienic conditions.

Activists drub 'awareness' event, ask Bescom to get to work

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Perhaps the severe criticism for dereliction of duty has goaded Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) to encourage its employees to organise programmes to create awareness among the public on the importance of informing Bescom about electric short circuits and dangerously hanging electricity wires. However, activists suggest that the Bescom employees attend to the complaints lodged online about electric transformers instead of wasting time.

On Friday, Bescom employees, holding placards, took out awareness rallies at all its subdivisions across the city. Though it is not clear whether the Bescom had taken permission from the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), banners had been put up at important locations in the city appealing the public to inform them about short circuits and broken electrical wires by contacting the helpline 1912.

Activists demanded the Bescom attend to problems on its own instead of depending on the public. "It is the responsibility of the Bescom to inspect electrical installations, including transformers, on a regular basis. I



Bescom employees hold an awareness event near at New Thippasandra, on Friday

am at a loss to understand the logic in asking the public to inform them about short circuits or dangerously hanging wires," said Thomas from

Human Rights Education and Monitoring.

Expressing a similar opinion, Ashok M of Aam Aadmi Party demanded the Bescom attend to the problems that have been pending for long. "They must attend to the complaints lodged online without any delay. That would be a great help to the hapless public," said Ashok M.

Terming the awareness programmes a waste of time and money, HM Venkatesh of Naija Horatagarara Vedike, said the Bescom's responsibility is to ensure electricity supply by fixing the problems on time. "There are other organisations to create awareness among the public on the

importance of informing them about the mishaps. By organising such programmes, Bescom is trying to cover its failures in protecting people from electrical mishaps," said Venkatesh.

However, Bescom General Manager (Quality Standards & Safety) said the awareness is aimed at receiving information on potential danger areas. "It will help the Bescom employees to visit the spot immediately to prevent loss of property and lives. The Bescom employees are inspecting the electrical installations on a regular basis. The recent awareness programme has helped the public and Bescom employees," the general manager insisted.

Fatal rides on city's roads

Bengaluru has recorded second-highest number of deaths in road accidents in country, highest pedestrian deaths



File photo of an accident in the city; According to traffic officials, 2-wheelers are most vulnerable on city's roads

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Bengaluru has recorded the second highest number of deaths in road accidents in the country after Delhi. According to the latest data released by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the city accounted for 3,822 road accidents in a year which makes 5.8 percent of the total accidents recorded in India.

Bengaluru is only second after Delhi which accounted for 8.1 percent of cases. Bengaluru also recorded the highest number of pedestrian deaths in the country with 247 deaths.

According to NCRB, "The highest number of fatal road accidents were reported in Delhi city (1,412 deaths) followed by Bengaluru (772 deaths), accounting for 8.8 percent and 4.8 percent of total deaths due

to road accidents in 53 mega cities respectively during 2022."

Out of these 772 deaths, 711 people have died on the road due to speeding. A year before that in 2021, the city had recorded 3,213 accidents, and in 2022 the number increased by 19 percent.

Dangerous 2-wheeler rides

More than half of these fatal accidents were caused by two-wheelers resulting in 416 deaths. Other than that, seven people died in accidents involving a truck or lorry, six died in accidents involving buses, 18 by car/jeep and seven by auto. The accidents in Bengaluru injured 822 pedestrians and claimed 247 pedestrian lives. As per the data, Bengaluru ranks second in the country even in pedestrian accidents after Chennai.

Blackspots identified

MN Anucheth, Joint Commissioner

"We have identified some blackspots where accidents happen frequently and we are trying to figure out some design tweaks and enforcement here"

—MN Anucheth, Jt CP (Traffic)

of Police (Traffic), says that 40 percent of these accidents involve two-wheelers and another 30 percent involve pedestrians.

"We have identified certain blackspots where these accidents are frequently happening and we are trying to figure out some design tweaks and enforcement at these blackspots. We are also taking up some awareness initiatives and education drives like the

Student Association for Road Safety where we are trying to incorporate traffic awareness among children," Anucheth told BM.

December's risk

The maximum number of accidents were recorded in December 2022, which saw a 28 percent increase from January 2022, when the numbers went from 282 in January to 361 in December.

According to the data, the city roads see the maximum number of accidents at night, between 9 pm and 12 am, there have been 645 accidents in a year.

As many as 751 people have died in the Bengaluru Urban area, and a total of 187 people have died near residential areas, followed by 54 people who died near schools and colleges.

In 2022, Karnataka recorded 39,765 road accidents and 11,705 people died as a result.

City tops in acid attacks

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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Bengaluru witnessed the highest number of acid attacks against women in the country in 2022, with the city police registering six cases, the latest report released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) said.

According to the data, among the 19 metropolitan cities listed in the NCRB data, Bengaluru topped the overall list with eight women falling victims to acid attack last year. At the second position was Delhi which saw seven women falling prey to acid attacks in 2022 followed by Ahmedabad at third position with registration of five such cases, the data showed.



Eight women fell victims to acid attacks in city last year

An analysis of the NCRB data showed that the national capital (Delhi) reported seven cases of attempted attacks followed by Bengaluru which registered three such cases last year. Meanwhile, metropolitan cities like Hyderabad and Ahmedabad registered two such cases of attempted attacks in 2022.

One of the prominent cases of acid attack which shook Bengaluru last year was that of a 24-year-old M.Com graduate who was attacked on April 28 when she was on her way to work. According to police, the accused had been stalking the woman for several years.

He approached her for marriage and when she rejected his proposal, he splashed acid on her. The man was nabbed later in May from Tiruvannamalai Ashram where he was allegedly hiding in the guise of a "Swami". In June 2023, the victim was offered a job on contract basis by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's office at his secretariat. Another similar case was reported on June 10, 2022 wherein a man allegedly threw acid on the face of his female friend after she turned down his marriage proposal.

—PTI

This tactic is a last resort

Only 22 homestays from State registered in NIDHI portal



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Though Karnataka has a high number of homestays, not many have shown interest to register in the NIDHI portal. Overall, 1,850 homestays have registered across the country in NIDHI, though only 22 from Karnataka have registered.

National Integrated Database of Hospitality Industry (NIDHI) is to ensure electronic delivery of various services and benefits to the hospitality unit. Union Tourism Minister G Kishen Reddy said the Union Ministry of Tourism has set up NIDHI as a single/common platform for various units in the Hospitality and Tourism Sector. "The registered units will be able to avail of various value-added services by using their registered identity including classification under the voluntary scheme of the Ministry of Tourism. We have not commissioned any study to assess the sustainability of homestays in India. However, with an objective to promote homestays, we encourage the home owners to enroll for approval of homestays and enhance their

Many homestays have already registered with the state tourism department and have got all the requisite permits to operate homestays

—Uttam Hulikere, homestays group

knowledge, skills and experience."

Reacting to this, Uttam Hulikere, ex-president of Chikkamagaluru Homestays Association said, "Not many have registered under NIDHI due to lack of exposure or information. However, many homestays have already registered with the state tourism department and have got all the requisite permissions to operate homestays."

Illegal operations

Meanwhile, many activists allege that the Forest Department has failed in preventing illegal resorts, homestays and hotels from sprouting up in protected forest areas including Bandipur and Dandeli Anshi tiger reserve. "Coffee plantations, too, have come up in the pro-

ected forest areas including wildlife and tiger reserve. In spite of the issue being highlighted in many audit reports, commercial establishments are being run in sensitive ecosystem zones and the forest department has done nothing. Eviction drives have become a challenge due to the lobby comprising industrialists and influential persons. While commercial activities have been restricted 10 km from the border of any protected forest, many hotels are being run inside sanctuaries in clear violation of forest and tourism policy," said an activist. According to the activist, the department of forest and Karnataka State Pollution Control Board will have to shoulder the responsibility of controlling them. "A majority of homestays operating in the state are not registered and are operating illegally. As per the state tourism department rule, it is mandatory for homestay owners to display a board stating that their homestay is registered with the tourism department. The state government had earlier brought out guidelines to regulate homestays and directed all homestay owners to register their establishments. In the state, the highest number of regis-

tered homestays is operating in Kodagu district," they said.

Rules to be followed

An official told BM that registration with the local tourism department is a must. "Prior to registering their names, the owners must get a no-objection certificate from the local police and other agencies such as the gram panchayat and municipal corporation. If an owner has multiple homestays, he can register only one homestay where is staying. Only close relatives (father, mother, son or daughter) can operate homestays in partnership. However, one of them must reside in the homestay," the official said.

Other guidelines include the owner of the homestay must own the land where the business is being operated. A maximum of five rooms in the homestay only can be provided for tourist accommodation. "The homestays should have good road links and ample space along with all basic amenities for tourists. Owners should inform rates applicable for tourists. It is also compulsory for the owner to make a computerised record of tourists who have availed accommodation, and generate bills among others."

Minister bats for scientific temper

Karnataka Minister for Science and Technology NS Boseraju has instructed the Department of Science and Technology to design a new policy formulated to encourage the cultivation of scientific temper and achieve the objective of "Science for All."

In a statement, the minister said that after the success of Chandrayaan-3, children's interest in space has increased. It needs encouragement.

In this regard, providing access to a telescope is appropriate in order to promote scientific temper and science curiosity among the school students in the state. The Minister has instructed officials to design policies and programmes to increase scientific interest among school students.

The state has two regional science centres, two planetariums, and eight regional science centers. There are currently 11 mobile observatories in operation, the statement said.

New project being considered with the goal of increasing interest in scientific subjects among state students

Under the Department of Science and Technology, a new project has been considered with the goal of increasing interest in scientific subjects among state students from an early age. As part of this plan, telescopes and microscopes will be made available to all state government high schools, and teachers will receive training on how to use them to instruct students.

The Minister has directed officials to develop the necessary programmes and policies in this regard.

"The PAT Policy aims to provide access to telescopes in rural and Kannada medium government high schools in order to foster scientific temper and astronomical curiosity among 8th to 10th grade students.

"In addition to raising space awareness, it will give students the chance to discover the vast sky and gain knowledge about astronomical objects. We hope that this policy will spark an interest in astronomy and space sciences at an early age among students," Boseraju said.

—PTI

NOTES FROM THE FIELD



Hidden talent

Former Minister B Sriramulu, known for his reserved nature, surprised everyone at his daughter's wedding sangeet ceremony. He not only danced but also showcased a catwalk, holding his wife's hand, and earned thunderous applause from guests. Sriramulu, usually low-key, danced with family members, setting the stage ablaze.

Punctuality matters

To liven up the legislative session and encourage punctuality among MLAs, Speaker UT Khader has introduced a register to acknowledge early arrivals. However, this has

sparked some controversy. During the roll call of early attendees, Muddebihal MLA CS Nadagouda protested the exclusion of his name, claiming he arrived early. Khader clarified that he had only announced the first 25 names. Nadagouda expressed concern about setting a precedent, stating that constituents were questioning the fairness of the process. Thirthahalli MLA Araga Jnanendra suggested naming those who don't arrive on time.

Missing in action

The legislative session in Belagavi saw Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and other ministers absent during the initial days, engaged in Telangana politics. Opposition parties criticised their absence, prompting DKS to remark humorously that he was pleased with the opposition's concern for him. He added that during Karnataka elections, Telangana and Kerala MLAs camped in Karnataka, and now it was time

for a return gift in politics.

Brothers in arms

Former CM HD Kumaraswamy and his brother HD Revanna share a strong bond. During a recent session, when Kumaraswamy was debating an issue, Revanna tried to interrupt. HDK halted his brother, asking him to sit down and not interrupt, wanting to complete his speech.

Zero matters

Responding to criticism about the government's inability to provide answers during the Zero hour, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah explained its importance. He highlighted that the Zero hour allows legislators to raise issues based on developments after the previous Assembly session, expecting government responses within two days. He stressed on understanding the significance of this parliamentary session segment.



Cycles please

While women enjoy complimentary bus travel, students in rural areas continue to have to walk long hauls. Chikkaballapur MLA Pradeep Eshwar recently raised this concern in the Assembly, about the absence of free bicycles for students, which could have facilitated their commute to school. During BS Yediyurappa's initial tenure as Chief Minister, a certain section of students received bicycles. Unfortunately, the scheme was later discontinued. Several MLAs have urged the government to reconsider and provide cycles to students.

—Sridhar Vivan

Found it! What is lost at BIAL is not lost after all

Canadian citizen all praise for airport authorities as they manage to find and return in no time his bag with all important papers that he accidentally left behind

Iffath Fathima
Iffath.Fathima@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A Canadian visitor to India is all praise for Bengaluru airport officials. The reason? He managed to recover all his documents that he had misplaced thanks to Bengaluru International Airport Ltd (BIAL) authorities.

The Canadian citizen Gowtham SL was on a vacation to Goa, his home town, via Bengaluru. He left behind a bag containing all his important documents at the Bengaluru International Airport terminal one gate number 40 on December 6. It was cooperative efforts from airport authorities at BIAL that he was able to get back his important documents.

Gowtham travelled via the Montreal-Dubai route and arrived in Bengaluru around 6.45 pm. It was a 20-hour journey to Bengaluru and Gowtham had a four-hour transit in Bengaluru and then had to take the Goa flight. As he was tired after a long flight, he got something to eat and was waiting at the terminal 1 gate number 40 to board the flight to Goa and then forgot the bag with documents.

"My final destination was Goa, my home town, where I was reuniting with my family after 18 months. While I was excited to reach my final destination, I was tired too due to these long hours of travels via economy class. My Indigo flight to my final destination, Goa, scheduled at 9.30 pm was further delayed by 40 minutes. I had checked in and was resting in the waiting area for a long time before boarding the flight. Inadvertently I left my travel shoulder bag on a chair and forgot to pick it



The lost and found counter at Bengaluru airport actively coordinated with person who had lost his bag. They ask for an ID proof, and have a set procedure for hand over

up while we were called out to board the flight after a long four-hour waiting period. On the Indigo flight, I remembered that I left my bag in the waiting area. I called the flight attendant as well as the hound man who was managing the boarding of the flight. He told me that the gates were closed and they were closing the plane doors. I immediately gave my local number to the groundsman and asked him to give me a missed call. He was kind enough to help me out and ensured that my bag was safe and given to the lost and found centre of the BIAL airport. He was in constant touch with me and my wife to inform us about it."

After they reached Goa, Gowtham reached the Dabolim Airport in the lost and found department but couldn't track the bag. "I

contacted my childhood friend Nishant who was in from Bengaluru but was also in Goa during the same time who helped me trace out my

“The BIAL responded to our email with a procedure for handover and gave us a reference number for tracking purposes

— Gowtham L, traveller

bag within 2-3 hours after contacting the BIAL officials. I had all my important documents in it like all my ID cards, bank cards and other valuable documents in the bag," said Gowtham.

Nishant S said, "The BIAL officials were very approachable and cooperative. They responded and called back quickly for the verification. The officials asked us to send an email about the lost items along with the ID proof. After the emails were sent, they asked us to collect the documents within three days. I reached Bengaluru on December 9 and contacted the official in charge and they came in no time and gave me the document. It was a big relief for my friend Gowtham."

Gowtham said, "The BIAL responded to our email with a procedure for handover as well as and gave us a reference number for tracking purposes. It was a very clear and transparent process. I hope they maintain it and wish them all the best."

IN BRIEF

4 students die after car falls into ditch

Four college students died after the car they were travelling in allegedly toppled and fell into a ditch near the highway underpass on the outskirts of Chikaballapura, police said on Sunday.

The incident took place on Saturday night when the students were heading from Bengaluru to Chikaballapura to drop two of them.

According to the police, one of the students was driving the car. The accident took place when the driver lost control of the speeding vehicle, which overturned and plunged into the ditch. Three of them died on the spot. One person was grievously injured and was rushed to a nearby hospital where he succumbed to injuries.

— PTI

Lawyer murder in Kalaburagi: One held

The key accused in the lawyer murder case in the district headquarters town of Kalaburagi has been arrested, police said on Sunday.

According to police, Neelakanta Patil fled the spot after hacking Eerrannagouda Patil in broad daylight on December 7 near the basement of an apartment. A camera had recorded the incident showing the accused chasing the victim.

On Saturday, police said they caught Neelakanta, but did not divulge any details. However, a police source said that a property-related issue was the likely cause of the brutal murder.

— PTI

Bodies found

The bodies of two students who drowned off Someshwara beach here on December 9, were recovered from the same area on Sunday, police said.

Two PU students, Yashvit (17) from Kunjattur Adka and Yuvaraj (17) from Kunjattur Majalu, were swept away by the rough sea waves on Saturday evening.

— PTI

₹1.3 cr payday: Karnataka batter Vrinda Dinesh just wants to make family proud

When the Women's Premier League (WPL) auction was being conducted in Mumbai on Saturday, Vrinda Dinesh was practising with the Karnataka U23 team ahead of the Women's U23 T20 Trophy campaign starting in Raipur.

When her name came up on the auction block, there was a buzz around the Karnataka camp and that increased when one of her teammates whispered to a support staff member that Vrinda was picked by UP Warriorz for a huge INR 1.3 crore, which she didn't believe initially.

"I am in Raipur at the moment with the (Karnataka U-23) team. When the auctions were going on last evening, I was bowling in the nets and I heard my teammate whispering to my colleague, 'She got picked for 1.3 (crore)'. It was



something unbelievable and I never expected," said Vrinda in a virtual interaction on Sunday. Vrinda eventually became the second-highest uncapped Indian player in terms of

amount at the WPL auction.

Family first

In that moment of joy, she called up her mother, who was following the auction with the rest of the family at her home in Bengaluru.

"The batters and keepers and coaches left the nets and came to hug me and it was very nice, very genuine. The first person I called was my mom and I think she was in tears. I didn't go for the video call because I knew I could see those tears and there was a very faint voice. I knew they were really happy for me and overwhelmed and I want to just make them proud," she added.

Vrinda had been with the Karnataka team since the 2018-19 season, but it was her knock of 36 off 29 balls in the final of the ACC Emerging

Women's Asia Cup in Hong Kong for the India 'A' team that got her into the reckoning.

From there she attended trials of all five WPL sides, and interestingly, she enjoyed the one with UP the most. "Yes, I did attend all five trials. I enjoyed UP the most. We had a lot of match simulations and open nets. We also played a match where prior to the match or any simulation, they came and spoke to me."

Vrinda was recently with the India 'A' team in their three T20s against England 'A' and talking of her experiences in Hong Kong and Mumbai, she said, "Regarding my India A experience, I think there's a bridge between international and domestic series. To be able to experience that and know where I stand and what I can do better, it's a different enjoy-

ment level there."

Secret wish

Vrinda conceded that her secret desire was to play for Royal Challengers Bangalore, as she hails from Garden City. But she is happy to have been picked up by the Warriorz, led by Alyssa Healy, who also have power-packed overseas players like Sophie Ecclestone, Tahlia McGrath and Dani Wyatt.

At the Warriorz, Vrinda will reunite with her India 'A' teammates Shweta Sehrawat, S. Yashasri and Parshavi Chopra. Her wish is to open the batting for the team with Alyssa. "Playing for UP Warriorz is something that I thought about last year itself. I really liked the way they took the team and the fun they had on and off the field."

— IANS

Security agency to provide teachers at BBMP schools/colleges

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to recruit teachers has invited criticism from social activists, child rights activists, and Rajajinagar MLA S Suresh Kumar.

"The BBMP should not engage any agency to recruit teachers for BBMP schools and colleges in the middle of the academic year. What will be the fate of teachers already outsourced last year," asked Suresh Kumar.

Child Rights Trust director Nagasimha G Rao said the BBMP should and must select the agencies that have the expertise in recruiting teachers.

"There is no need for the BBMP to engage a detective and security services agency to recruit teachers. A detective and security services expertise will be different. It will affect the future of children studying at BBMP schools and colleges," said Rao.

Expressing the similar opinion, HM Venkatesh of Naija Horatagarara Vedithe said the quality of education at BBMP schools and colleges is far from satisfactory. "Many of the teachers recruited by outsourcing agencies do not know how

to conduct classes for students at the BBMP schools and colleges. The BBMP authorities should take measures to recruit qualified teachers and ensure quality education for the students," said Venkatesh.

Meanwhile, Appu Detective and Security Services managing director Dayanada said that his agency is known for providing manpower to various companies and government offices.

"We provided 250 people, including teachers, for schools in Chikmagalur district. Education department officials recruited the teachers and we took the responsibility of paying salary and other emoluments. We will engage people with expertise to select and recruit teachers for the BBMP schools and colleges," said Dayanada.

However, BBMP executive engineer (projects - south) Suresh said he wrote the letter to Appu Detective and Security Services because it is qualified to supply teachers.

"The agency had participated in the tender process and bid with the lowest amount to supply teachers to the BBMP schools and colleges," said the executive engineer.



FAIR ENOUGH

The stage is set for Kadalekayi Parishe, which begins today. Bengalureans are looking forward to the groundnut fair that is held on the last Monday of Karthika Maasa. The main street of Basavanagudi is gearing up for the fair and shops have already been set up. Historians say that the central event involves paying homage to the Big Bull (Nandi) by offering the first harvest of groundnuts to ensure abundant crops in the upcoming spring.

Why it is time to check flawed infra

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Sustainable Transportation Lab, Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

Experts underlined, given the problems such as urban heat island effect and health issues cropping up due to high emissions, it is unbelievable that projects involving felling of trees in the heart of the city are being allowed.

"We cannot keep cutting down trees looking at various environmental issues including urban heat island effect. It is beyond belief that we are yet again cutting trees in the heart of the city, especially when respiratory disorders are on the rise already," said Harini Nagendra, professor of sustainability at Azim Premji University.

Researchers explained that flyovers, road widening or underpasses are short-term measures that block or change the course of normal water contours causing flooding events.

"While a flyover in an area might sound rosy currently, the residents, highly likely, will face a new set of problems post-completion. As the built-up area changes due to construction, drainage patterns will also change. For instance, Manyata Tech Park has been inundated over the last couple of years during monsoon; this is due to a change in built-up area leading to altered contour. Many times citizens end up supporting such interventions as they fail to see the holistic picture," added Dr Verma.

Experts said, before proposing road infrastructure projects, agencies must make use of simulation models to understand the impact of these projects on traffic, not only on one particular stretch but all road networks in and around the corridor.

Simulations can be used to understand how these projects would impact the consumption of fossil fuel or tail-pipe emissions. Experts further noted that sometimes road infrastructure may be the need of the hour, but not without a thorough feasibility study or alternative analysis.

"This basic step of conducting a feasibility study, alternative analysis, or environment impact assessment has always been neglected and bypassed.

We have world-class institutes and researchers. Every road infrastructure project should be scrutinised by a team of town planners, engineers, environment researchers, and mobility experts," said Akshay Heblikar, founder of Eco Watch and a member of Bengaluru's Biodiversity Management Committee.

An integrated approach towards infrastructure development is a dire necessity, experts stressed.

"Once the ongoing metro project is completed, a lot of traffic parameters will change. Are we taking these parameters into account before proposing road infrastructure projects that will promote private modes of transport? It is time we think of such projects in an integrated fashion. Scientific studies of such projects should be conducted and data should be made available in the public domain.

It is time to invest in public modes of transport and fast-track projects such as metro and suburban rail. If we continue rooting for every flyover and underpass, Bengaluru will become uninhabitable soon," said Nagendra.

Interestingly, when a team of researchers analysed the proposed tunnel road project through simulations, they concluded it will likely make Bengaluru's air too toxic to breathe by 2030. The study was conducted by researchers at IISc — the findings pointed out that the road infrastructure will increase carbon dioxide (CO2) and particulate matter (PM) emissions by nearly 4% by 2030 as compared to a business-as-usual (without tunnel road construction) scenario.

Ecologists believe it is time for Bengaluru to fully comprehend its urban carrying capacity. Although the city has already crossed the threshold of urbanisation, ad-hoc road infrastructure projects will push it over the edge.

"It is unfortunate that we have not learned from our mistakes in the past. We are already facing water scarcity, and swamped with vector-borne diseases due to the increase in temperature. These issues will be further aggravated if we do not put a full stop to mindless development activities," said a city-based ecologist.

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MIND MADE UP

Expert explains different biases that impact decision making

As humans, we're prone to cognitive shortcuts, often categorising people and situations simplistically. While labelling can offer initial clarity, reality thrives in nuances often missed by common biases. Fortunately, recognising biases is challenging, deterring their persistence. Common biases, like confirmation bias or the actor-observer bias, heavily influence our decision-making, leading to misjudgments and flawed choices. Awareness of these biases is key to circumventing their impact, allowing for a more nuanced and accurate perception of the world. Anandita Vaghani, Founder and Mental Health Counsellor, UnFix breaks it down for you.

Actor-Observer Bias

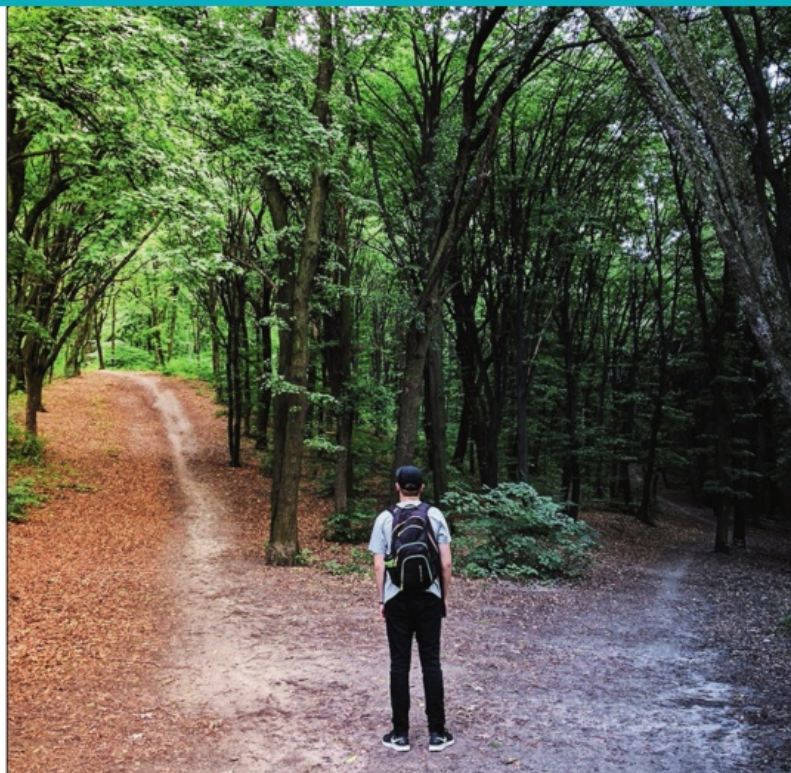
The actor-observer bias skews attribution, depicting others' actions as stemming from stable internal traits while attributing our own behaviours to situational factors. This tendency fuels labelling people, perceiving their flaws as fixed and ours as temporary. Consequently, errors abound, ranging from unjustly dismissing an employee at work to severing ties with a supportive friend. This bias perpetuates misunderstandings, impeding fair assessments and fostering judgments based on perceived permanence rather than situational context, leading to detrimental outcomes, both professionally and personally.

Confirmation Bias

This kind of bias occurs when we focus on information that confirms our existing beliefs and preconceptions, while ignoring information that contradicts these opinions. This might influence the way we take feedback from our friends or authoritative figures – for instance, choosing to believe someone may not like us, because we have a preconceived notion that people think we are lacking or 'not good enough'.

Sunk-Cost Bias

Sunk-cost bias typifies our inclination to persist in relationships or projects based on prior



investments, irrespective of the imbalanced cost-benefit ratio. This persistence often results in maintaining connections with individuals hindering personal growth or allocating resources to unproductive endeavours, perpetuating losses. Despite diminishing returns, we cling to these commitments due to past investments, blinding ourselves to the evident drawbacks. Consequently, this bias traps us in unfruitful situations, impeding progress and potential.

Anchoring

This bias may occur in situations where we may be pressurised to make a speedy decision. When we are amidst this type of pressure, we tend to base our final judgements based on data found very early in the decision making process- almost adhering to the adage 'the first impression is the most important impression'. When we fall hostage

to this bias, it may be nearly impossible to consider alternative possibilities even though they might be more favourable.

Utilising Decision-Making Models

An ability to think critically is essential to making decisions free of biases and errors. These decision making models can help guide decisions, depending on the type of decision, stakes and information available.

Rational Decision Making Model:

This proves invaluable in high-stakes scenarios fraught with intense emotions and multiple perspectives. It begins by defining problem facts and outlining criteria for resolution. Weightage is assigned to each criterion, followed by generating alternative strategies. Thorough

evaluation of costs and benefits of these alternatives ensues. Subsequently, based on analysis, the model facilitates determining the optimal course of action. This systematic approach fosters a methodical assessment, ensuring consideration of various factors and viewpoints, thereby aiding in making well-informed decisions amidst complexity and heightened emotions.

Intuitive Model: Ever heard 'going with a gut instinct' during decision making? That is the very crux of this model. What we might not know is that intuition is not just a sudden feeling, rather a feeling based on prior experience that trains the mind to decide based on a series of prior observed patterns. This model is suitable for decisions that have limited time and resources, and someone very experienced in the topic of the decision.

Vroom-Yetton Model: This is optimal for unfamiliar decisions or when decision-makers lack experience in a given task. Tailored around the idea that the problem's context determines the most suitable solution, it employs yes-or-no questions guiding decision-makers through decision-making processes. This model acknowledges the importance of context and offers avenues for collaboration, allowing decision-makers to seek input from team members or make decisions based on available information. Its structured approach aids in navigating uncharted territories, ensuring thoughtful consideration of circumstances and available resources to arrive at well-informed decisions.

Long-Term Vs. Immediate

Behavioural science underscores humanity's struggle in adequately assessing long-term consequences across decisions, spanning relationships, living choices, or career trajectories. To mitigate this tendency, adopting a future-self perspective proves valuable. Considering the impact of a decision from the viewpoints of oneself in 15 minutes and 15 years aids in weighing short and long-term repercussions. By contemplating the outcomes aligned with personal, partner, or business goals, individuals gain clarity. This reflective practice fosters a holistic evaluation, aligning present actions with future aspirations, thus minimising the likelihood of short-sighted choices with potentially adverse long-term effects. —Femina

Awareness of some biases that influence our decision-making is key to circumventing their impact, allowing for a more nuanced perception of the world

MIRRORLIGHTS

5 minutes of physical activity valuable in late-stage lung cancer: Study

Lung cancer affects more individuals each year than any other malignancy. Nonetheless, a new study led by Curtin University revealed that people with incurable forms of the condition may survive longer if they engage in less than five minutes of physical activity per day.

From the time of their diagnosis, 89 patients with incurable lung cancer had their daily activities monitored by a team from Curtin

School of Allied Health, Curtin eNable Institute, and other research institutions.

They then compared the mortality rates after 12 months between those who engaged in more moderate-to-vigorous physical activity (such as walking) and those who were largely inactive -- and saw significant results.

The people who completed more than 4.6 minutes per day of moderate-to-vigorous physi-

cal activity had a 60 per cent lower risk of mortality after 12 months compared to the group who were less active.

Study lead and former Cancer Council WA postdoctoral Fellow Associate Professor Vin Cavalheri said this could be important in treating people with inoperable lung cancer, particularly early.

"We previously demonstrated people with inoperable lung cancer



were highly sedentary and spent minimal time in moderate-to-vigorous physical activity before the commencement of treatment," he said. "These new findings further indicate that healthcare providers should investigate a person's levels of physical activity in early management of inoperable lung cancer. —ANI



All you need to know about...

Pneumonia

Incidences of pneumonia spike in winter

Cold weather favours the growth of bacteria and viruses so in the winter season there are a lot of patients who get viral infections or swine flu infections. The cold air affects our respiratory system and it can cause bronchoconstriction and decrease our immunity. When our immunity goes down during winter that favours the growth of bacteria and viruses in your lungs which will term as pneumonia.

Who is at risk?

The elderly population, those who have underlying diabetes, kidney disease, liver disease or any other chronic disease. Especially post-transplant patients who are on immunosuppressants. These patients are at higher risk of getting pneumonia during cold weather.

How to avoid it

- Avoid smoking and keep the house well-ventilated otherwise it will start growing fungal infections or viral infections
- Hydration is also integral when it comes to respiratory secretions
- Avoid smoking
- Indoor respiratory exercises
- High protein diet, avoid sugary food
- For high risk patients with bacterial infections, pneumococcal vaccination is the way to go

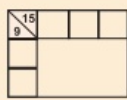
Other suggestions

While winter graces us with pleasant weather, it also heightens the risk of infections which makes prioritising your health paramount during this season. Embrace practices such as maintaining social distancing, wearing masks, and using sanitizers. Exercise extra caution if you come into contact with someone who is unwell, as diligent self-care becomes the key to a healthy winter.

by Sharon D'silva, Femina

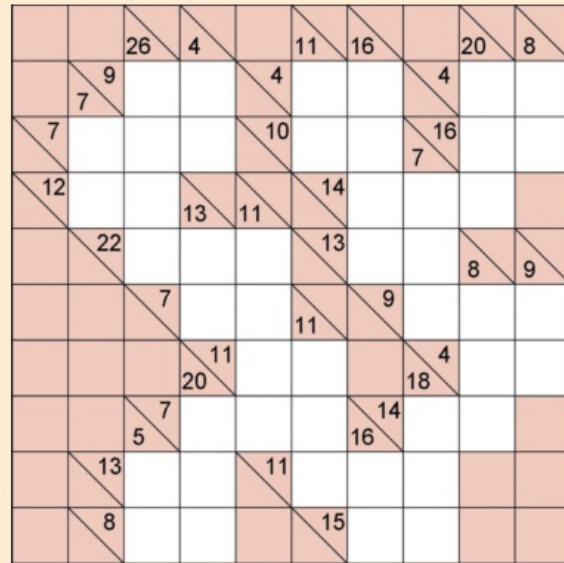
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

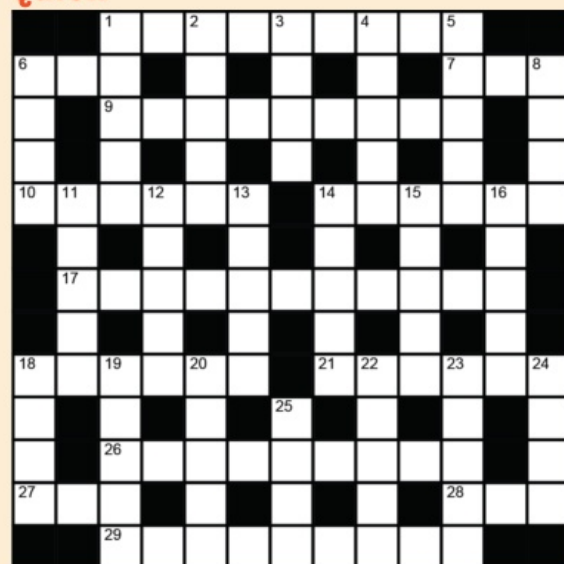


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

- 1 Bangalore's largest lake (9)
- 6 Charge (3)
- 7 Aide-de-camp, in short (3)
- 9 Yes-man (9)
- 10 Literary compositions (6)
- 14 Wails or bemoans (6)
- 17 Resisted staunchly (11)
- 18 Road used as a detour (6)
- 21 Cheap and showy (6)
- 26 Worldwide (9)
- 27 Wallace's hero Ben ____ (3)
- 28 Noah's ship (3)
- 29 Doubt or misgiving (9)
- 5 Squeal or complain about? (3,2)
- 6 Smoke-duct (4)
- 8 Wild ____ : lions, tigers, etc.? (4)
- 11 Cheeky (5)
- 12 Fragrance (5)
- 13 Oracles (5)
- 14 Lawman Earp (5)
- 15 Acquired relative (2-3)
- 16 Senior in age (5)
- 18 Tub for soaking (4)
- 19 Rains heavily (5)
- 20 ____ a yarn : tells a long tale? (5)
- 22 Very (mus.) (5)
- 23 ____ Thomas : famous poet? (5)
- 24 Tug (4)
- 25 Of Indian or local origin (4)

DOWN

- 1 Defeats, gets the better of (5)
- 2 Having good fortune (5)
- 3 Venomous snakes (4)
- 4 Demise (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: H EQUALS U
KDXC PYH BVNCA JDX KFJXV,
VXOXORXV JDX GWVNC.



Linemaro

I froze because your beauty stunned me



Mindchow

The truth you believe in and cling to makes you unavailable to hear anything new



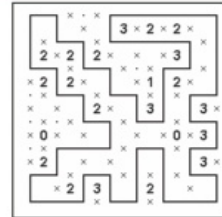
Joke of the day

I have always wanted to go to Switzerland to see what the army does with those little knives

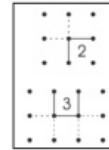
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

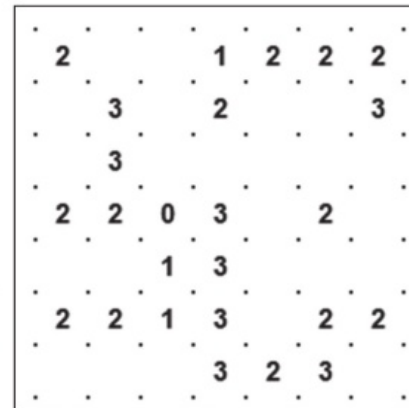


(Fig B) Not Allowed

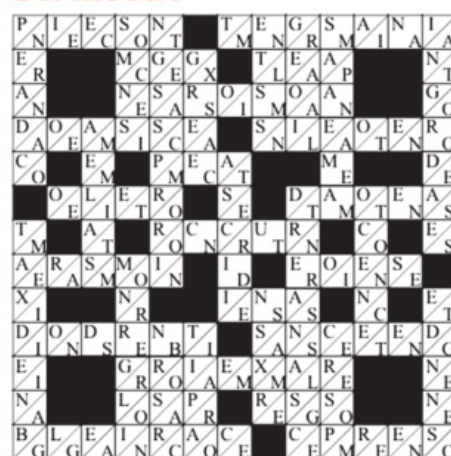
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

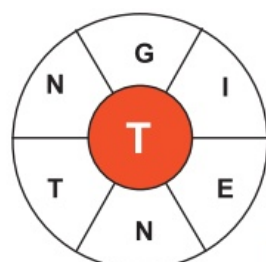
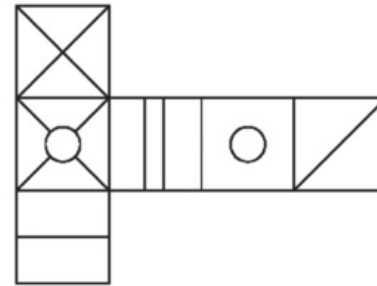
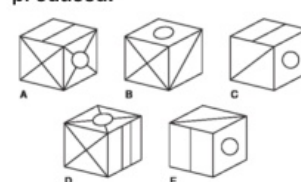
- 1 Dub NS; 6 Nu Awe;
- 7 Speer; 8 I reed;
- 9 Bos'ns

DOWN

- 1 Us BSE; 2 Up inn;
- 3 Adorn; 4 Bedew;
- 5 Erses

Mensapuzzle

When the above is folded to form a cube, which is the only one of the following that can be produced?

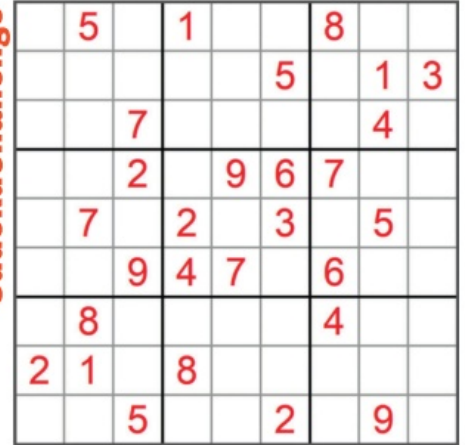


Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

05 Average; 06 Good; 08 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy

2 2 6 8 = 18

Medium

2 3 5 5 = 15

Hard

2 5 7 3 = 15

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Fence rail is higher. 2. Section of bush is taller. 3. Bracelet is moved. 4. Hair is different. 5. Tie is added. 6. One side of collar is tucked in.

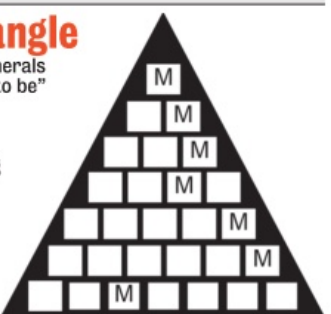
Riddler

Can you decipher this: ALLworld

Alpha triangle

- 1 1000 in Roman numerals
- 2 Part of the verb "to be"
- 3 Felon's flight
- 4 Tibetan priest
- 5 Wake-up call
- 6 Anti-malarial drug
- 7 Navy bigwig

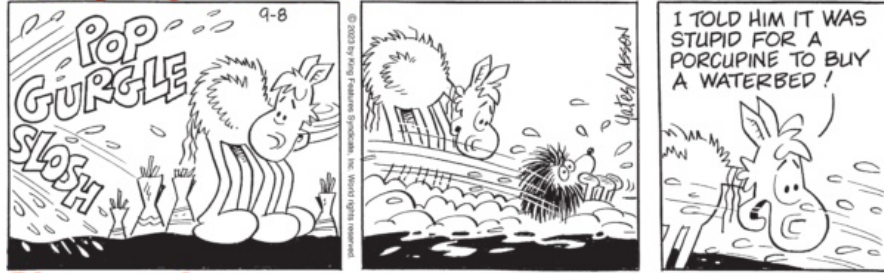
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be



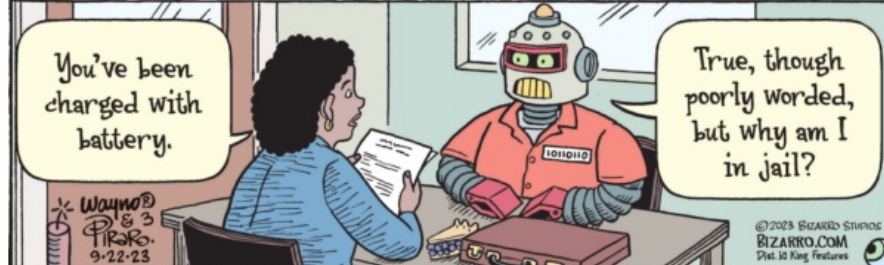
made at each step answering to the clue given.

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson



Bizarrotrip



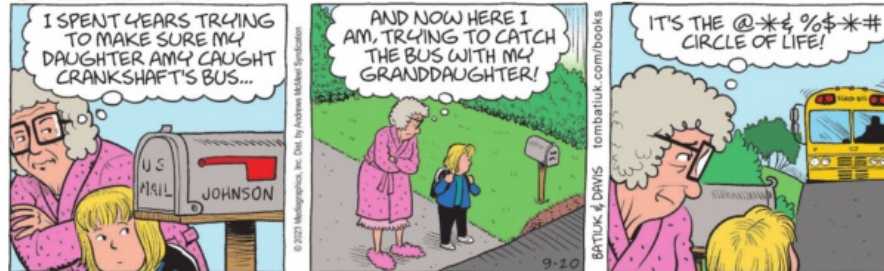
Diamond Lil



Hart of the city



Crankshaft



Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

Today you may control your straightforwardness as it may affect terms with the people around you. You may plan to renovate your house. You may also spend on buying some artefacts for home. You are likely to enjoy some social event, which may increase your network. You may also invest some capital in your family business.



Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23

Today you may be busy at work, and an overload of work may make you tired mentally. You may not be able to enjoy some family events or you may arrive very late, which can affect your domestic harmony. Your efficiency may be praised by your seniors, which may result in promotion in the current job.



Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22

Today you may resolve many problems with the help of your way of speaking. You may also plan to do some higher studies to enhance your skills, which may be beneficial for your career in the near future. Love birds may enjoy their romantic moments. You may be able to gain control over your opponents and rivals. You may also plan for a house or vehicle loan.



Taurus Apr 21 - May 20

Today you may be blessed by the moon. After a sound sleep, you may feel healthy and you may enjoy every moment. The moon will make you confident, which may reflect into your way of working. Old health issues may be resolved now. You are likely to help some needy person, which may increase respect for you amongst your peers.



Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23

Today you are blessed by elders. Last few days' crunch may be resolved now and destiny may help you. Your projects that have been stopped are likely to start automatically. Money that was stuck is likely to be recovered. You may also plan for a religious trip with the family members, which may increase your inner strength. You may get a chance for an overseas trip or long-distance travel also.



Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20

Today you may be busy with kids' education. You are likely to travel for a kid's education. You may also plan for a change in your current job. You may also plan for higher education to enhance your career. You may also hear some good news in terms of a job interview. Love birds may enjoy their happy moments.



Gemini May 21 - Jun 21

Today you may feel unhappiness. You may feel dull and unhealthy, which affects your way of working. There may be some delay in your current projects, which may lead to some arrogance in your nature. It is advised to avoid adventure tours or driving in a rush. Love birds may face some break up.



Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22

Today you may be affected by the negative moon, which may make you upset and arrogant. You may be ready for sudden and unexpected changes in daily routine. Your profits may be converted into losses, so it is advised to postpone investments for some days. You may be in a self-exploration stage, which may lead you towards the reality of life.



Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

Today you are likely to have a change in your place or position. You are advised to read any document carefully before putting your signature. You are advised to be careful in terms of parent's health. Investments in risky assets may lead to losses, so it is suggested to postpone making investment for some days.



Cancer Jun 22 - July 23

Today you are likely to get some big orders, which may increase your business. With the help of some influential person, you are likely to get benefits at work. You may also expect promotions. Job seekers may get suitable jobs. You are likely to plan to renovate your house or office, which will enhance your status. You may enjoy romantic moments with your loved one.



Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22

Today you are blessed by the moon. Money that was stuck may be recovered now, which may increase your financial health. You may be in a prime position in your office in terms of leading a project. You are likely to get incentives in terms of promotions. Understanding with the spouse is likely to be improved, which may create domestic harmony.

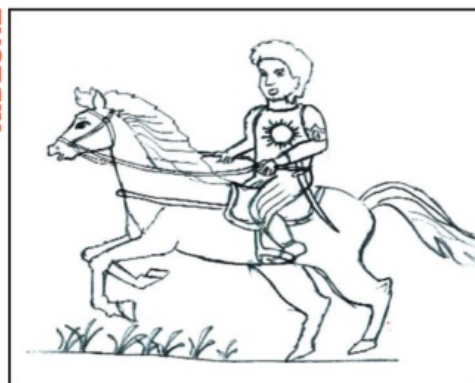


Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

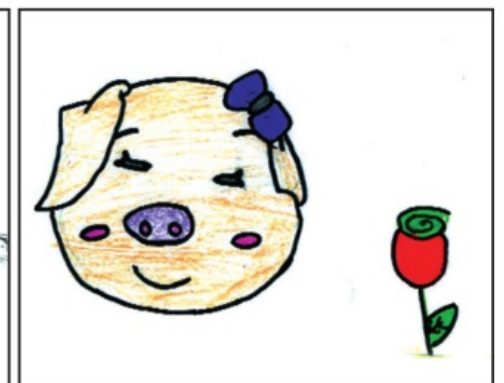
Today you are blessed by the moon. You may be energetic and may take fast decisions in terms of your business. Your subordinates may help you complete your project before time, which may increase trust in the office. Disputes with the siblings may be resolved now. Those in jobs may get some incentives in terms of promotions.



KIDZONE



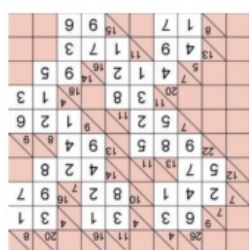
Nemaz Kahan, 12 Years, Nisarga High School



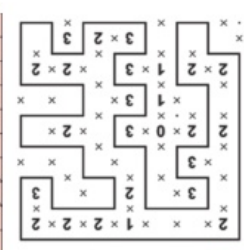
Sanvi Rai, 8 Years, Sophia High School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

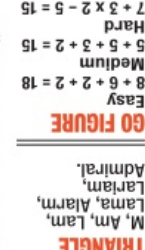
SOLUTIONS



KAKURO



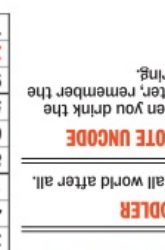
LOOP



ALPHA



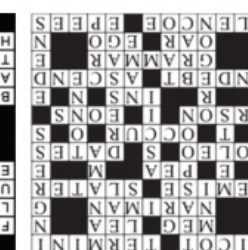
SUDOKU



MENSA PUZZLE



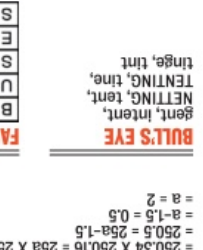
QUICK



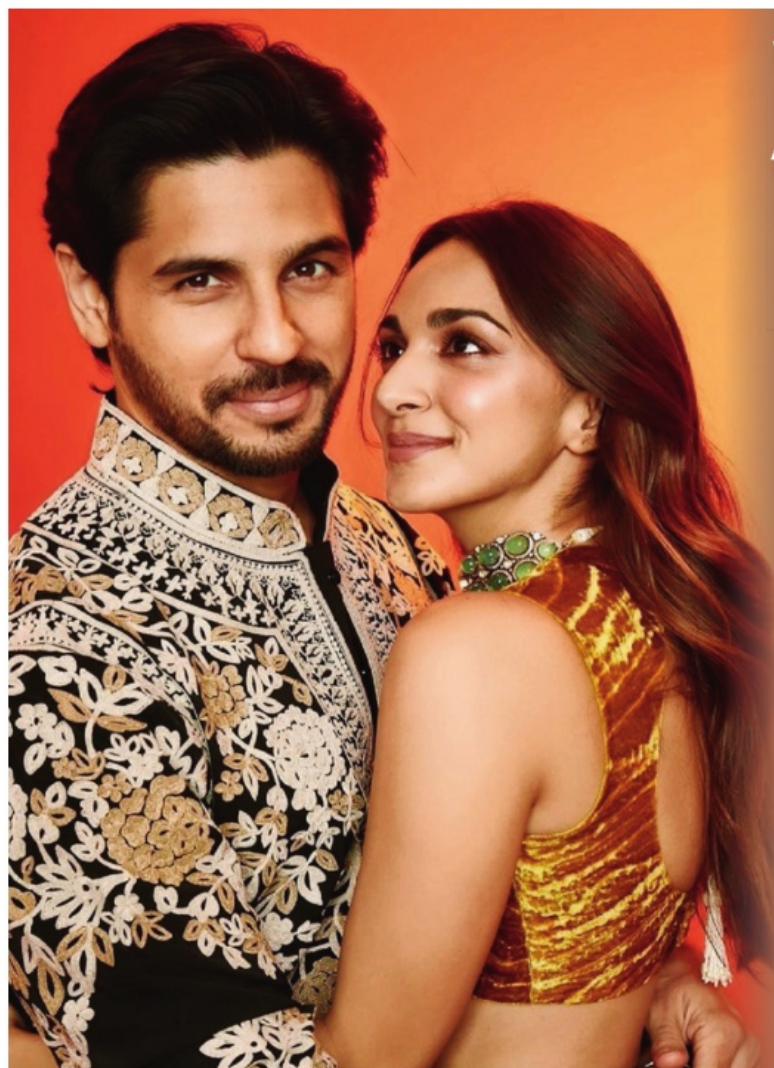
STRIKE OUT



FAST FIVE



BULLS' EYE



X'Mas with loved one

Kiara shares sneak peek of prep for Christmas with husband Sidharth

Celebrity couple Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra are all set to celebrate their first Christmas together after getting married. The 'Satyaprem Ki Katha' actor shared a sneak peek of her preparation on Sunday. Kiara took to her Instagram story and treated fans to a glimpse of a beautifully decorated Christmas tree, set up on their balcony, adorned with gifts, candies, reindeers, Santa Claus figurines, and a golden star on top, with "Merry Christmas" banner.

Sidharth and Kiara tied the knot in an intimate ceremony on February 7, 2023, at Suryagarh Palace in Rajasthan. In 2022, Sidharth and Kiara appeared on different episodes of Koffee with Karan Season 7, where Karan

Johar got them talking about their relationship for the first time. While Kiara confirmed that they are "more than friends", Sidharth said, "I am manifesting a brighter and happier future. If it was her, it would be great."

Once they got married, the couple shared their wedding pictures on Instagram and wrote, "Ab humari permanent booking hogayi hai."

Recently, Kiara appeared on the famous talk show 'Koffee With Karan 8' (KWK) and shared how Sidharth proposed to her with the 'Shershaah' line.

She said, "When Sid appeared in that episode (from the previous season), we had just returned from Rome, where he proposed to me. My parents were not present. It was my and his family's first family vacation." **-ANI**



Human vs nature, caught on film



One more Kannada movie based on human-wildlife conflict and land mafia went on floors recently. The muhurat function of Kadana Virama was held at Bande Mahankali Temple. K Bhaskar Naik (Maranakatte) and Samrat Manjunath V (Garudacharpalya) are bankrolling the movie under the Sri Brahmalingeswara Films banner while Murali SY is handling the megaphone.

"I made my debut as a director in Sandalwood with the film Reveal. Kadana Virama is my second movie. It is the story about the relation between humans and soil. Producer Bhaskar Naik has written the script, while I wrote the screenplay and dialogues. The movie has five songs," said Murali. It is said the shoot of the movie is planned to be held in and around Kundapura. Akash Shetty, who acted in Navarangi, makes a comeback with this film after a gap of seven years. Chayasri will play the female lead.

Sam turns producer



Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu on Sunday announced that she's now venturing in production and announced her production house, Tralala Moving Pictures, in collaboration with Hyderabad-based entertainment company Mandoa Media Works.

Samantha expressed her vision for Tralala, stating, "Our aim is to provide a platform for filmmakers to tell stories that are meaningful, authentic, and universal."

Tralala Moving Pictures, born out of the creative synergy between Samantha and Mandoa Media Works, envisions itself as a platform that goes beyond conventional storytelling.

"Tralala's main focus is to produce content representative of new age, expression, and thought. It's a nurturing space that invites and encourages stories reflecting the strength and complexity of our social fabric," she added. **-IANS**

Well met

Bollywood star Alia Bhatt recently attended the 3rd edition of the Red Sea International Film Festival in Saudi Arabia. Now, the photos and a video of Alia interacting with Hollywood star Andrew Garfield at the event have gone viral.

The video shows the two actors exchanging smiles and handshakes at the closing ceremony of the film festival in Jeddah, and the fans are delighted, to say the least.

At the event, Alia wore a grey strapless gown with purple floral embroidery, while Andrew Garfield donned a black suit. Sharing their photos, an X user wrote, "Alia Bhatt and Andrew Garfield shaking hands omgg."

As the pictures went viral, fans engaged in a manifestation game as they wished for the two actors to



collaborate on a project. Alia having already made her debut with the Netflix film 'Heart of Stone', gives her fans a hope over the two actors coming together.

A fan wrote, "Aww, the way they were smiling, manifesting them in a Hollywood movie." One more said, "A Hollywood movie, please." A fan also wrote, "She looks good with everyone like I need this to happen NOW." **-IANS**

'My very own personal psycho'

Actor Sonakshi Sinha on Sunday penned a special wish for her rumoured boyfriend and actor Zaheer Iqbal on his birthday.

Taking to Instagram, Sonakshi shared a goofy yet cute video featuring herself and Zaheer.

Along with the video, she penned a sweet message, "The cray to my Z(ee)... this is quite self explanatory. Happy birthday to my very own personal psycho @iamzahero [?]"

As soon as the video was uploaded, fans and followers chimed in the comment section.

Huma Qureshi wrote, "Awwwwieeee."

Diana Penty dropped

heart emojis.

Recently, on Sonakshi's birthday, Zaheer dropped a string of cute pictures from their shoot sets to their outings.

Sharing the pictures, he wrote,



"Kuch toh log kahenge, logo ka kaam hai kehna. Neways....You can always lean on me. You are the best. Keep "Roaring" and soaring always. May u see more of the world than anyone ever has May u always live the mermaid life. Always be HAPPY. I love you."

Sonakshi has been in news for her rumoured relationship with Zaheer. The couple has maintained that they are "just friends" but earlier actor Varun Sharma's Insta story hinted at something else.

Sonakshi and Zaheer were last seen together in a film titled 'Double XL' and the music video 'Blockbuster'. **-ANI**

Right thing at right time



Some software engineers have not only directed Kannada movies but also played the lead. Yathish Pannasamudra joins the list with the film Onty Bunt Love Story. Pre and post-production works of the movie are completed. It was expected to hit the silver screen on December 8 but due to the problems at the Regional Office of the Central Board of Film Certification, the release was delayed.

Prior to this, Yathish used to make short films. "I had a dream of acting during my college days. I entered Sandalwood because of my passion towards movies," said Yathish. Yathish hails from Pannasamudra village of Arasikere in Hassan. He is an alumnus of Government Sri Krishnarajendra Silver Jubilee Technology College. "The movie focuses on youth who fail to do the right things at the right time. I tried to convey a message about allocating time for all important things in life," the director said.